been arrested in the case under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The Advisor, U.P. Government has requested the IGP, Meerut Zone to hand over the case to Forest Department for prosecution in a court of law and the District Magistrate, Muzaffarnagar has been asked to get the licences of the Arms used in the offence cancelled.

Afforestation Project in Baspa Valley in Kinnaur District Himachal Pradesh

1033. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the Himachal Pradesh Government for revising the estimated cost of the compensatory afforestation in Baspa Valley in Kinnaur district almost 50 per cent from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 10 crores;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any enquiry into the circumstances leading to such a revision in the cost of the Project;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No formal communication has been received from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for revising the cost of compensatory afforestation in respect of Baspa Hydro Electric Project in Baspa Valley, in district Kinnaur.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Gujjars ask for Rajaji management

1034. SHRI SOM PAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express of 6th April, 1993 captioned "Gujjars ask for Rajaji management";

(b) if so, whether Government would consider the proposal of Gujjar Tribals Panchayat on forest management in view of the Rio conference declaration on involving local forest people in conserving and augmenting forests;

(c) whether Government propose a comprehensive plan along these lines for other forest and tribal areas of the country; and

(d) if not, why ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Government have seen the press report.

(b) While the concept of people's participation in afforestation and protection of forests on usufruct sharing basis has been adopted by the Government and the guidelines therefor have been issued to State Governments in 1990 long before the Rio conference, the concept is not of relevance to management of protected areas which constitute about 4% of the total forests and have to be preserved as reservoirs of biodiversity. The Rio Conference also recognised the fact that loss of bio diversity has continued to occur from habitat destruction, over harvesting and introduction of cattle in the habitats and that urgent and decisive